

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: Unknown )  
Filing Date: Unknown )  
Priority Date: 2 September 2000 )  
Applicants: MOIR, Mark )  
For: TELEVISION PROGRAM SELECTION MEANS )

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Director For Patents  
Box: New Application  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This is a preliminary amendment to the enclosed application entitled "Television Program Selection Means" claiming priority to British Patent Application No. 0021548.3 filed 2 September 2000.

**In the Title:**

Change "Programme" to --Program--

**In the Specification:**

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 1, after the title, insert the following headers and paragraph:

**--CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION**

This application claims priority to British Patent Application No.0021548.3 filed 2 September 2000.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--**

Page 1, lines 1, 7, 8, 10, 13, 19, 20, 22 and 26, change "programme" to --program--.

Page 2, before line 1, insert the Header:

**--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--**

Page 2, lines 2, and 4, change "programme" to --program--; lines 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, and 25, change "programmes" to --programs--; line 7, change "characterised" to --characterized--.

Page 3, lines 6, change "utilise" to --utilize--; lines 9, 14, 18, 20, 26 and 27, change "programmes" to --programs--; lines 13, 16, 17, and 18 change "programme" to --program--..

Page 4, lines 4, 7, 8, 11, 23, change "programmes" to --programs--; lines 6, 9, 10, 11, 16, 18, two occurrences, 19, 21, 23, 26 and 27 change "programme" to --program--.

Page 5, lines 2, 14 and 25, change "programme" to --program--;

Page 5, before line 7, insert the Header:

**--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--**

Page 5, before line 12, add the Header:

**--DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--.**

Page 5, line 24, change "programmes" to --programs--.

Page 6, lines 3, 13, 15, 22, 23, 24, 25, and 26, change "programme" to --program--; lines 3, 6, and 29, change "programmes" to --programs--.

Page 7, lines 2, 6, 8, 13, 28, change "programme" to --program--; lines 9, 10, 20, 22, 24, 27 and 30, change "programmes" to --programs--.

Page 8, after the last line, insert the following paragraph:

--While the invention has been described with a certain degree of particularity, it is manifest that many changes may be made in the details of construction and the arrangement of components without departing from the spirit and scope of this disclosure. It is understood that the invention is not limited to the embodiments set forth herein for purposes of exemplification, but is to be

limited only by the scope of the attached claim or claims, including the full range of equivalency to which each element thereof is entitled.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Amended) A television [programme] program selection system, said system [including] comprising; means for use by the system user to allow the selection of a television [programme] program by interaction with a display screen and a broadcast data receiver for the generation of audio, visual and auxiliary data from digital data received from a broadcast service provider, and [characterised in that said system includes] a means for a viewing time period to be selected which suits the users availability and, in response to the selected viewing time period, the system determines from the group consisting of programs in their entirety, substantially in their entirety or with respect to other selected criteria which [of the] programs are available [programmes can] to be watched [in their entirety, substantially in their entirety or with respect to other selected criteria,] in the viewing time period and indicates any such [programmes] programs to the user.

2. (Amended) A system according to claim 1 [characterised in that] wherein the indicated [programmes] programs are those which are suitable for viewing in their entirety in the selected viewing time period and the user can then select one of said indicated [programmes] programs for viewing.

3. (Amended) A system according to claim 1 [characterised in that] wherein [if no programmes are available for viewing in their entirety in the selected viewing time period,] a message is displayed on the screen to indicate [this] to the user that programs in their entirety are unavailable for viewing.

4. (Amended) A system according to claim 3 wherein [characterised in that if no programmes are available] the user can redefine the viewing time period and repeat the [programme] program search in the event programs are unavailable.

5. (Amended) A system according to claim 1 [characterised in that] wherein the user may select the [selected] viewing time period for which [the] said television system identifies suitable [programmes] programs [is selected by the user].

6. (Amended) A system according to claim 1 [characterised in that] wherein the selected viewing time period starts at the instant of the user interaction with [the] said system to select the viewing period such that the user only has to indicate the end time of the period.

7. (Amended) A system according to claim 1 [characterised in that] wherein the start and end times of the selected viewing time period may both be in the future and be selected by the user

8. (Amended) A system according to claim 1 [characterised in that] wherein the user can [type] insert into the television system the start and end times of the period which their viewing time is to be limited to.

9. (Amended) A system according to claim 1 [characterised in that] wherein the user [utilises] utilizes a remote control device of the type commonly provided with television systems to select the viewing time period and also subsequently select [programmes] programs from those indicated as being available.

10. (Amended) A system according to claim 9 [characterised in that] wherein a number of time period options are displayed on the display screen for selection by the user via [the] said remote control device.

11. (Amended) A method of selecting a television [programme] program for viewing from a number of available [programmes] programs via a television system, said method [comprising] including the steps of the user selecting an appropriate viewing time period, activating a [programme] program selection system in the television system, said [programme] program selection system searching for a [programme] program or [programmes] programs from all those which can be generated during that time period from data received from a broadcast service provider and those [programmes] programs which can be viewed in their entirety or substantially in their entirety or in relation to some other criteria selected by the user, and which are therefore suitable for viewing in the selected viewing time period, are indicated to the user for selection.

12. (Amended) A method according to claim 11 [characterised in that] wherein the system searches for suitable [programmes] programs from [programmes] programs which can be generated from data previously received and held in memory means in the broadcast data receiver which forms part of the television system, and [programmes] programs which can be generated from data currently transmitted to the system.

13. (Amended) A method according to claim 11 [characterised in that] wherein the method includes the additional step of allowing the user to input into the television system the type or types, in terms of user specified criteria, of [programmes] programs they would like to watch during the selected time period.

14. (Amended) A method according to claim 11 [characterised in that] wherein the search for the [programmes] programs is made with respect to data received from the broadcast service provider for use in the generation of an [E]electronic [P]programme [G]uide [(EPG)] on the display screen, said data including the start and end times of all the [programmes] programs available for viewing and which start and end times can be compared with the start and end times of the selected viewing time period.

15. (Amended) A method according to claim 11 [characterised in that] wherein if the user does not wish to watch the [programme] program or [programmes] programs indicated by the television system, the television system can be used in a normal manner with the user manually selecting a [programme] program to watch regardless of whether it matches the selected viewing time period.

**REMARKS**

Attached are the marked up versions of the claims and new paragraphs as required in Section 1.121(4) (ii).

The application should now be in condition for examination, which is respectfully requested.

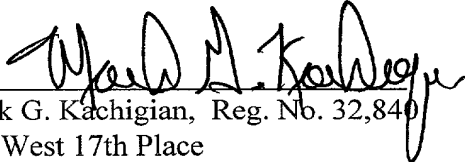
Respectfully Submitted

HEAD, JOHNSON & KACHIGIAN

Dated:

30 August 2001

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Replacement Title: Television Program Selection Means

New Header to be Inserted on Page 1, before line 1:

**--CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION**

This application claims priority to British Patent Application No.  
0021548.3 filed 2 September 2000

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION-**

TO: 0021548.3



## **Replacement Paragraphs to be Inserted into Page 1:**

This invention relates to a program selection means for a television system.

It is often the case that a television user will have only a limited period of time in which to watch the television before they have to go out or they have to do something else. The user may waste this limited period of television viewing by channel hopping to find a particular program of interest however the time taken to find the program may take up the available viewing time so that the user then has no time left to actually watch the selected program.

There are now increasing numbers of television channels available on television systems and so switching from channel to channel to find a suitable program can typically take a long period of time. As such, the user may end up not watching anything of interest in the time period available which can be frustrating for the user and therefore undesirable to the broadcast service provider as the provider typically relies upon the user paying a subscription for the service.

Furthermore a user may select a program to watch and not realise that the program is longer than the limited time period that is available for them to watch it in. This can be annoying for the user, particularly if the program is a film in which users generally like to see the beginning and the end thereof in one viewing.

It is therefore an aim of the present invention to provide a user with a means for rapidly selecting a television program of interest suitable for watching in a limited time period.

Header and paragraph to be Inserted into Page 2:

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

Replacement Paragraphs to be Inserted into Page 2:

According to a first aspect of the present invention there is provided a television program selection system, said system including means for use by the system user to allow the selection of a television program by interaction with a display screen and a broadcast data receiver for the generation of audio, visual and auxiliary data from digital data received from a broadcast service provider, and characterized in that said system includes a means for a viewing time period to be selected which suits the users availability and, in response to the selected viewing time period, the system determines which of the available programs can be watched in their entirety, substantially in their entirety or with respect to other selected criteria, in the viewing time period and indicates any such programs to the user.

Typically the indicated programs are those which are suitable for viewing in their entirety in the selected viewing time period and the user can then select one of said indicated programs for viewing in the selected viewing time period.

Typically, if no programs are available for viewing in their entirety in the selected viewing time period, a message is displayed on screen and the user can then, if they wish, redefine the viewing time period such as, for example, to extend the same.

Preferably the selected viewing time period for which the television system identifies suitable programs is selected by the user.

### Replacement Paragraphs to be Inserted Into Page 3:

In an alternative embodiment the user can utilize a remote control device of the type commonly provided with television systems to select the viewing time period and also subsequently select programs from those indicated. In one embodiment a number of time period options are displayed on the display screen for selection by the user via the remote control device.

In a further aspect of the invention there is provided a method of selecting a television program for viewing from a number of available programs via a television system, said method comprising the steps of the user selecting an appropriate viewing time period, activating a program selection system in the television system, said program selection system searching for a program or programs from all those which can be generated during that time period from data received from a broadcast service provider and those programs which can be viewed in their entirety or substantially in their entirety or in relation to some other criteria selected by the user, and which are therefore suitable for viewing in the selected viewing time period are indicated to the user for selection.

Preferably the television system can search for both television programs which can be generated from data previously received and held in memory means and also programs which can be generated from data currently transmitted to the system.

### **Replacement Paragraphs to be Inserted Into Page 4:**

Preferably means are provided to allow a user to input into the television system the types of programs they would like to watch during the selected time period.

In one embodiment an electronic program guide (EPG) maintains a database of the types of programs the user likes to watch. This list of programs can be pre-selected by the user or based on the type of program frequently watched by the user, public ratings of the program, the actors in the programs, a particular football team the program relates to and/or the like.

EPGs are provided in television systems due to the large numbers of channels and programs available for selection. This large number of channels and programs makes conventional listing means inadequate. The EPG stores program information in an easily accessible format, such as the subject matter of the program, the length of the program, the time of showing of the program and/or the like.

Preferably the television system can search for a suitable program to fill the time period using the EPG information.

Preferably a cancellation button is provided such that if the user does not wish to watch the programme or programmes suggested by the television system, the cancellation button prevents the television system from being tuned into the suggested programme, thereby allowing the user to look at other programme suggestions.

**Replacement Paragraph to be Inserted Into Page 5**

An advantage of the present invention is that the user can quickly select a television program from a number of possible options indicated by the television system as being suitable for watching during a pre-selected time period, thereby greatly reducing the time which may be spent flicking through channels to find a suitable channel.

**Page 5, Before Line 7 Insert the Following Header:**

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

**Page 5, Before Line 12 Insert the Following Header:**

**DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS**

**Replacement Paragraphs to be Inserted into Page 5:**

Referring firstly to Figure 1, there is illustrated an example of a display screen 2 for a television system. The television system is provided with means for time limited program selection according to a selected viewing time period in the following manner.

In use, if the user has, for example, only a limited time for viewing television programs and wishes to be able to view an entire program in that time they can follow the steps outlined as follows. The user brings up the menu bar 4 on the display screen 2 and selects a portion 6 which is appropriate to the viewing time period they have available to watch the television.

## Replacement Paragraphs to be Inserted Into Page 6

The user then presses the "make recommendation" key 8 to initiate searching of the broadcast data receiver database for a suitable program or programs which can be watched during the selected viewing time period. Typically the data used for the generation of the EPG on the display screen, includes the start and end times of programs and this data can be referred to with respect to the selected viewing time period start and end times.

In this example, the television system has selected one appropriate programme from the available programs and window display 12 appears on display screen 2, as shown in Figure 2. The window 12 displays the selected viewing time period 14, the title of the suggested program 16 identified by the television system that can be watched during the selected time period, the channel 18 on which the suggested program is being shown and an acceptance icon 20 which when selected via the remote control device results in the television system being tuned to the channel 18.

A Cancel icon 10 can be displayed on menu bar 4, to allow the user to select the same and cancel the time period selected. A Cancel icon 22 can be provided on window 12 to allow the user to cancel the suggested program if the user does not approve of the program selection made.

Once cancellation of the suggested program has been made, a further program suggestion can be made or alternatively the user can return to manually selecting a program in a conventional manner.

Although the invention need not be used to only select programs which will be shown in their entirety in the selected

### Replacement Paragraph to be Inserted to Page 7:

viewing time period it is likely that the invention has greatest utility when it is used to suggest a program which will run for a length of time similar to that of the selected time period. However, in other examples, if the user has only a small period of time available, such as 5 or 10 minutes, the television system is unlikely to find a whole programme to fit into the selected time period. For example, films and entertainment shows typically require the user to watch the whole program and so these types of programs are likely to be unsuitable for suggestion. In this case the television can select programs of belonging to categories which can be watched for small periods of time without it mattering that the entire length of the program is not watched. For example, sporting events, news features, documentaries and cartoons can be suggested by the television system which frequently only last for 5-10 minutes.

The user can input suggestions into the television system of the type of programs they are interested in watching. For example, a drop down menu can be provided which displays a list of possible topics or types of television programs for selection. A favorites menu can also be used where the user has previously selected a number of programs or channels and which are stored in the memory of the television system.

The EPG can be used to maintain a database of the types of programs the user likes to watch. This can be based on program type, ratings, a particular team, the actors involved and/or the like. The television system can then use this EPG data to suggest possible programs to watch in the limited time period selected.

[illegible][illegible]



### Clean Version of the Claims

1. (Amended) A television program selection system, said system comprising: means for use by the system user to allow the selection of a television program by interaction with a display screen and a broadcast data receiver for the generation of audio, visual and auxiliary data from digital data received from a broadcast service provider, and a means for a viewing time period to be selected which suits the users availability and, in response to the selected viewing time period, the system determines from the group consisting of programs in their entirety, substantially in their entirety or with respect to other selected criteria which programs are available to be watched in the viewing time period and indicates any such programs to the user.
2. (Amended) A system according to claim 1 wherein the indicated programs are those which are suitable for viewing in their entirety in the selected viewing time period and the user can then select one of said indicated programs for viewing.
3. (Amended) A system according to claim 1 wherein a message is displayed on the screen to indicate to the user that programs in their entirety are unavailable for viewing.
4. (Amended) A system according to claim 3 wherein the user can redefine the viewing time period and repeat the program search in the event programs are unavailable.
5. (Amended) A system according to claim 1 wherein the user may select the viewing time period for which said television system identifies suitable programs.

6. (Amended) A system according to claim 1 wherein the selected viewing time period starts at the instant of the user interaction with said system to select the viewing period such that the user only has to indicate the end time of the period.

7. (Amended) A system according to claim 1 wherein the start and end times of the selected viewing time period may both be in the future and be selected by the user

8. (Amended) A system according to claim 1 wherein the user can insert into the television system the start and end times of the period which their viewing time is to be limited to.

9. (Amended) A system according to claim 1 wherein the user utilizes a remote control device of the type commonly provided with television systems to select the viewing time period and also subsequently select programs from those indicated as being available.

10. (Amended) A system according to claim 9 wherein a number of time period options are displayed on the display screen for selection by the user via said remote control device.

11. (Amended) A method of selecting a television program for viewing from a number of available programs via a television system, said method including the steps of the user selecting an appropriate viewing time period, activating a program selection system in the television system, said program selection system searching for a program or programs from all those which can be generated

during that time period from data received from a broadcast service provider and those programs which can be viewed in their entirety or substantially in their entirety or in relation to some other criteria selected by the user, and which are therefore suitable for viewing in the selected viewing time period, are indicated to the user for selection.

12. (Amended) A method according to claim 11 wherein the system searches for suitable programs from programs which can be generated from data previously received and held in memory means in the broadcast data receiver which forms part of the television system, and programs which can be generated from data currently transmitted to the system.

13. (Amended) A method according to claim 11 wherein the method includes the additional step of allowing the user to input into the television system the type or types, in terms of user specified criteria, of programs they would like to watch during the selected time period.

14. (Amended) A method according to claim 11 wherein the search for the programs is made with respect to data received from the broadcast service provider for use in the generation of an electronic programme guide on the display screen, said data including the start and end times of all the programs available for viewing and which start and end times can be compared with the start and end times of the selected viewing time period.

15. (Amended) A method according to claim 11 wherein if the user does not wish to watch the program or programs indicated by the television system, the television system can be used in a normal manner with the user manually

selecting a program to watch regardless of whether it matches the selected viewing time period.

[illegible]